Decades ago, the mutant known as Wolverine found peace in Japan and had a son with his wife, Itsu Akihiro. The peace was short-lived—Itsu was murdered and Wolverine believed his son died with her… but the boy lived. Like his father, the son possessed enhanced senses, a powerful healing factor, and razor-sharp claws on each hand. He became known by the name he was taunted with as a child: the Japanese term for "mongrel," Daken. As he grew, he blamed his father for his mother's death, and this resentment consumed him. Recently, Norman Osborn, the former costumed villain known as the Green Goblin, took the moniker Iron Patriot and became the Director of the U.S. government's espionage strike-team, H.A.M.M.E.R., as well as leader of its super hero team, the Avengers. Osborn then populated the Avengers with powered beings he felt he could trust along with a host of super villains and Daken as a...

DARK WOLVERINE

Video footage of Daken slaughtering masked assailants in front of a grandmother and her grandson has just been brought to Norman's attention. Osborn, wishing to maintain a pristine public image, tries and fails to suppress the video which has found its way online. Now all Norman can hope to do is lessen the impact of the video by staging a stunt. He manipulates D-list villains Emmy Doolin, Cutthroat and the Inquisitor into breaking Moses Magnum out of jail and informs them that he has a sabotage job for them. What the villains aren't aware of is that Norman is using them in a scheme to make Daken look good in the eyes of the media when Daken heroically takes the felons down. The villains are just beginning to suspect that something is wrong when Daken comes calling...

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YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.
IF YOU GET THERE.
FRANKLY, I RECOMMEND SURRENDER. IT'LL GO BETTER FOR YOU. IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.
DEAL.

EDIT THAT.
BE READY TO EDIT EVERYTHING.
GO TO H--
UNGH!

YOUR AIM IS OFF, SWEETHEART.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE PLAYING WITH DOLLS INSTEAD OF BULLETS.
FUNNY.
NO, NOT FUNNY.
ONLY THE BEST FOR A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
YOU'RE MAKING THIS LOOK TOO EASY.
TOO BEAUTIFUL TO GO OUT IN A DIRTY WAREHOUSE SURROUNDED BY TWO-BIT THUGS.
LET THEM GET A SHOT IN. JUST ONE. IT'LL MAKE YOU SEEM MORE SYMPATHETIC.
IS THAT SO.
IF THIS IS GOING TO BE YOUR LAST MOMENT, DO IT IN STYLE. MAKE IT EPIC. LIKE POETRY.

'LET BASER THINGS DEVISE TO DIE IN DUST...
HYP
'...BUT YOU SHALL LIVE BY FAME!'
HHUNK
POETRY. REALLY.
YOU USED TO GRUNT MORE.
GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO. WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE...
...NEVER JUST ONE AVENGER...
COME ON. LET'S MAKE IT EASY ON YOU. I'LL JUST STAND HERE WHILE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.
BE THE WOMAN WHO KILLED WOLVERINE.
TEMPTING.
BUT YOU'RE NOT WOLVERINE.

WOW. DID HE TAKE THAT DELIBERATELY?
SIR?
SHOULD WE KEEP RECORDING?
YES.
BUT MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HIT THE NEWS FEED.
WE CAN USE THIS FOOTAGE... INTERNALLY.
NOT SO FAST, HUH?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SURRENDER.
MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF.
ENOUGH. WE NEED TO LEAVE. NOW.

STOP.
I'M GOING FOR THE EYE. EASY ACCESS TO HIS BRAIN.

NO TIME. HIS HEALING FACTOR--
--I *HAVE* HIM.
WE'VE GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH...WOLVERINE, AND WON. LEAVE IT AT THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE. BUT YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO FORGET ME NOW, ARE YOU?
I'M THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO LET YOU LIVE, YOU PATHETIC *ARROGANT*, PIECE OF CRAP.
CHEW ON THAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

JUST A SIMPLE JOB.
EASY PICKINGS.
THE WOMAN WAS RIGHT...
NOT EASY ENOUGH, APPARENTLY.
...YOU ARE PATHETIC.

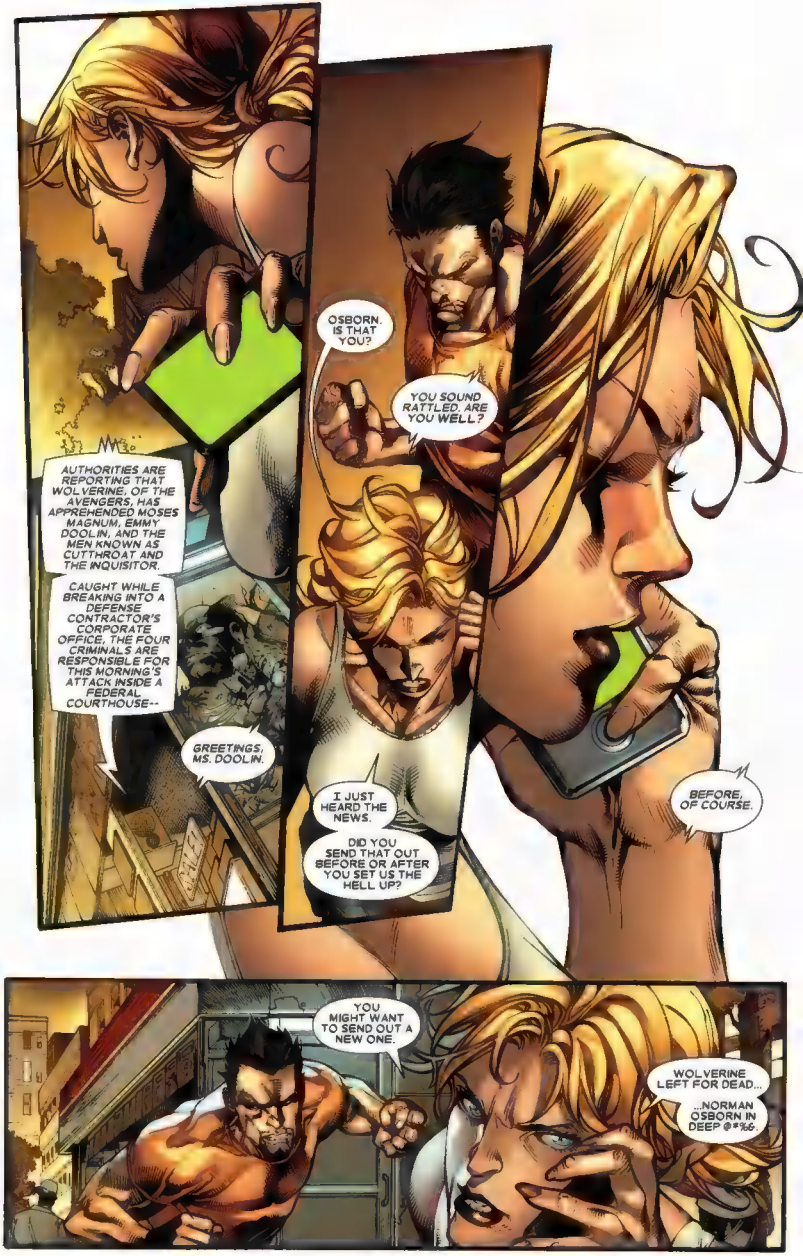
AIN'T AS EASY AS IT LOOKS...IS IT, KID?
SON OF A BITCH...

YOU THINK HE REALLY HAS A HEALING FACTOR?
DON'T KNOW. DON'T WANT TO STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT. THE CLAWS ARE CLOSE ENOUGH.
WHEN I SAW THEY [redacted] OF BONE AND NOT METAL--
--IT WAS HIS VOICE. FOR ME. THE WAY HE TALKED. NOT THE WOLVERINE I REMEMBERED. NOT EVEN CLOSE.
YOU THINK THOSE TWO REALIZE YET?
ENOUGH... STOP. I'M DONE... RUNNING.
GOT... A PLAN.
CALL NORMAN OSBORN.
THAT'S A *TERRIBLE* IDEA.
IT'S IN OSBORN'S INTEREST TO MAKE SURE WE GO FREE. WE STILL GOT THAT JOB TO DO.
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT ONE OF HIS *OWN PEOPLE* SHOWED UP OUT OF THE BLUE?
HELL, IT WAS *WOLVERINE*. HE'S FOUND ME IN STRANGER PLACES.
DON'T TELL ME *YOU'RE* BUYING THIS.
HE HAS A POINT.
DEATH BEFORE JAIL, REMEMBER?

AND IF THIS IS A COINCIDENCE, AND OSBORN CAN CLEAR UP OUR... PROBLEM?
YO. GIVE ME THE DISPOSABLE CELL PHONE THAT'S IN THE KIT. YOU USED IT YET?
STILL CLEAN.
DON'T MAKE THE CALL HERE. WE'RE TOO EASILY PINNED DOWN. HEAD TO STREET-LEVEL, AND THEN *DUMP* THAT PHONE WHEN YOU'RE DONE. GOT IT?
WHO DIED AND MADE YOU BOSS?
SHE'S RIGHT.
AND NOBODY IS BOSS HERE. I THINK WE ALL HAVE THE SAME DESIRE TO SEE THIS DONE RIGHT.
WHICH IS WHY *EMMY* SHOULD CALL OSBORN.
LIKE HELL.
I'M TOO RECOGNIZABLE.
AND YOU BOTH ARE MORONS.
HEY.
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE CALLED YOU, BABY?
IF I'M NOT BACK IN TEN--
WE'LL BE GONE BEFORE THEN.
RIGHT.

MAYBE I'LL BE GONE, TOO.
BACK TO MY BORING, SAFE LIFE.

GOING SOMEPLACE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DIDN'T WANT YOU GETTING ANY IDEAS.
BETTER THAN HAVING A SINKHOLE FOR A BRAIN.
I CAN'T DECIDE IF THAT'S SCARY OR SEXY.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GRABBED ME. MEN WHO SURPRISE ME USUALLY GET A BULLET BETWEEN THE LEGS.
COME ON. LET'S PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE OTHERS.
YOU HAVE A NUMBER?
YOU DON'T? THIS WAS YOUR IDEA.
YEAH, BUT I WAS JUST GONNA... YOU KNOW, DIAL UP OSCORP AND TALK TO THE OPERATOR.
EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.
OSCORP RECORDS EVERY PHONE CALL IT RECEIVES. CONVERSATIONS ARE ROUTINELY MONITORED FOR TRIGGER WORDS. SAY SOMETHING THAT RAISES WARNING BELLS, AND THE NETWORK WILL AUTOMATICALLY BEGIN TO TRACE THE CALL AND ALERT CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.
YES, PLEASE CONNECT ME TO MR. OSBORN'S PERSONAL LINE. TELL [redacted] THAT IT'S EMMY DOOLIN, AND THAT SHE'S STANDING NEXT TO MOSES MAGNUM.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
RESEARCH. YOU MIGHT TRY IT...
...SOME... TIME...OH. MY. GOD.


AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTING THAT WOLVERINE, OF THE AVENGERS, HAS APPREHENDED MOSES MAGNUM, EMMY DOOLIN, AND THE MEN KNOWN AS CUTTHROAT AND THE INQUISITOR.
CAUGHT WHILE BREAKING INTO A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR'S CORPORATE OFFICE, THE FOUR CRIMINALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MORNING'S ATTACK INSIDE A FEDERAL COURTHOUSE--
GREETINGS, MS. DOOLIN.
OSBORN. IS THAT YOU?
YOU SOUND RATTLED. ARE YOU WELL?
I JUST HEARD THE NEWS.
DID YOU SEND THAT OUT BEFORE OR AFTER YOU SET US THE HELL UP?
BEFORE, OF COURSE.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEND OUT A NEW ONE.
WOLVERINE LEFT FOR DEAD...
...NORMAN OSBORN IN DEEP @#%&.

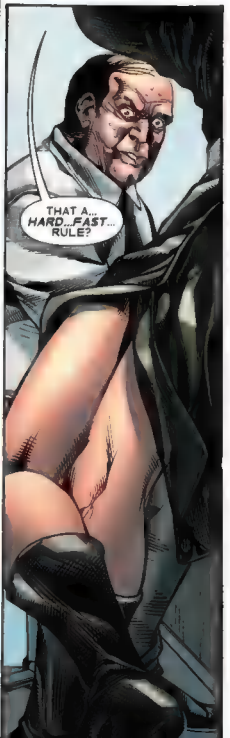
ALL-MART

YOU.
SURPRISED?
I FIRED YOU. JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW. IF YOU CAME HERE FOR YOUR FINAL CHECK, TOO BAD.

I DIDN'T COME FOR A CHECK.
I CAME FOR... SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING... BIGGER.

STORE SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE.
W-WHAT?

I NEED SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE FROM LAST TUESDAY. TIME STAMP BETWEEN 3 AND 4 PM.
NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT. THAT WOULD BE AGAINST STORE POLICY.


THAT A... HARD...FAST... RULE?

MAYBE WE CAN...WORK SOMETHING OUT.
YOU GOT IT, ROMEO.
DOWNLOAD IT ONTO THIS
HOW DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS THING? ON MY DESK? THE FLOOR? I'VE GOT A MEETING IN TEN MINUTES, BUT I'LL... I'LL CANCEL.
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE QUIET. YOU KNOW. CAN'T HAVE THE OTHERS KNOWING. MAYBE...I SHOULD GAG YOU. JUST IN...CASE?
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT. ALL THE SECURITY FOOTAGE HAS BEEN... ERASED.
CAN YOU DETERMINE WHO DID IT?
NO. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.
W-WAIT. WILL YOU STILL--
NO.
NOT EVEN IF I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT?

NO ONE... NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
I HAVE MY OWN...MY OWN HIDDEN SYSTEM. I RECORD EVERYTHING ON MY LAPTOP.
THE WOMEN'S CHANGING ROOMS? REALLY?
AND YOU. I... I MADE YOU MY SPECIAL PROJECT.
SEE?
YEAH, I DO.
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THAT'S...THAT'S MINE!
WE HAD A DEAL!
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE DID.
CONSIDER YOURSELF SCREWED.

DAMN IT.
WE'RE DONE. FINISHED.
HOW SO?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
IT'S FATE.
CRUEL, *CRUEL*, FATE.
WE WERE SET UP.
DOESN'T MATTER WHY.
I KNOW *THAT*. JUST DON'T KNOW *WHY*.
HE'S GOT THE AVENGERS. H.A.M.M.E.R.
EVERY-THING.
WHICH MEANS HE'S GOT EVERYTHING TO LOSE.
SO WHAT? THERE'S NOT EVEN SOUND.
IT'S PROOF THAT HE WAS SPEAKING TO ME ONLY DAYS BEFORE WE BROKE MOSES OUT.
NORMAN OSBORN, IN AN *ALL-MART*, SPEAKING TO *ME*. MOST PEOPLE WOULD FIND THAT UNUSUAL.
'UNUSUAL' ISN'T THE SAME AS A SURE THING. *AND* BACKED UP BY YOUR WORD AGAINST HIS?
HE'S RIGHT. NORMAN [redacted] TOO POWERFUL TO TAKE DOWN WITH NOTHING MORE THAN [redacted] HAIL MARY.
THAT MAY [redacted] TRUE. BUT I THINK I CAN DO SOMETHING WITH THIS.
IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S HOW TO GET UNDER SOMEONE'S SKIN...

WE'RE CANVASSING THE CITY FOR THE ESCAPED MUTANT, BUT SO FAR HE'S--
-- ELUDED CAPTURE. YES, I KNOW.
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS LATER.
SURPRISE, NORMAN.
YOU COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING ON THE INTERNET.
BUT FOLKS WON'T BE MAKING FUN OF YOU. THEY'LL BE ASKING FOR YOUR HEAD ON A PLATTER.
TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
YOU WOULD LIKE THAT, I THINK.
REALLY.
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, YOUR TROUBLES ARE USUALLY A WASTE OF MY TIME.
YES, YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR. I FORGOT IT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER MATTERS OF NATIONAL SECURITY.
BUT WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM A MERE PRETENDER?
YOU MIGHT WEAR YOUR FATHER'S MASK, BUT THOSE LOSERS LEFT YOU BLEEDING...AND BROKEN. I THINK I EVEN HEARD A WHIMPER.
NEXT TIME, MAYBE YOU SHOULD WEAR A DIAPER. JUST IN CASE YOU SOIL YOURSELF.
SIR. YOU HAVE A CALL.
I'LL TAKE IT IN MY OFFICE.

I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.
YES?
OSBORN. IT'S DOOLIN. I TAKE IT YOU'VE SEEN THE VIDEO?
IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT.
PLAY IT. COOL. ALL YOU WANT. BUT THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT OUT. ALL OF US DO. FREE AND CLEAR.
I CAN'T DO THAT. YOU'RE ALL FUGITIVES. HOW WOULD THAT LOOK? IMAGE IS --
--IMPORTANT, YES. I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO TAKE A HUGE DUMP ON YOURS IF YOU DON'T PLAY BALL.
FINE. TURN YOURSELVES IN.
LIKE HELL.
TURN YOURSELVES IN AND I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED. I'LL EXPEDITE THE COURT PROCEEDINGS--WHERE YOU'LL BE CONVICTED. ONCE INSIDE THE SYSTEM, I CAN ASSIGN YOU NEW IDENTITIES AND RELEASE YOU. FREE AND CLEAR.
THAT'S MY OFFER. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
MS. DOOLIN?

OKAY. WHERE ARE WE DOING THIS?
OH, DON'T WORRY. WE'LL COME TO YOU.
WE TRACED THE CALL. THEY'RE NOT FAR.
YOU TEXTED?
SHUT THE DOOR.
IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.
YOUR MESS, YOU MEAN. EVER CROSS YOUR MIND THAT IF YOU HAD--
--DAKEN--
--JUST LEFT IT ALONE FROM THE BEGINNING--
SHUT. YOUR. MOUTH.
YOU WILL DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.

RIGHT. NATIONAL SECURITY.
LET ME CHECK MY *CALENDAR* FIRST. WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS ANY *HOT DATES*.
THE PLAN IS THE SAME. BUT AS THERE'S NO TIME TO PRE-INSTALL CAMERAS, I WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE A NEWS CREW PRESENT.
THAT MEANS *LIVE TELEVISION*.
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID. YOU *WILL* FIX THIS.
OF COURSE.
BUT I WON'T BE DOING IT FOR YOU.
SO HAVE A LITTLE PRIDE. DON'T BLOW IT THIS TIME.
YOU TRUST ME. HOW TOUCHING.
I'VE GOT MY OWN SCORE TO SETTLE.
TO BE CONTINUED...